



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
REGION ONE

New York Division Office
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building, Ninth Floor
Clinton Avenue and North Pearl Street
Albany, New York 12207

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 23, 1978

HB-NY

Mr. John Esler, Chairman
Transportation Committee of the
McKownville Improvement Association
19 Elmwood Street
Albany, New York 12203

Dear Mr. Esler:

Many of the concerns discussed in the attachment to your letter, Dec. 5, were also raised at the recent public meeting. These concerns are considered during the development of the project.

In developing plans for a highway improvement many issues have to be considered including those mentioned in the attachment to your letter. As a resident of the Western Avenue area you are aware of the serious congestion problems that now exist. This congestion, in turn, is causing Western Avenue to have a very high accident rate. At the recent public meetings held by the NYSDOT, the State representatives stated that the numerous left turning movements caused a high incidence of rear end collisions and also seriously restricted the movement of traffic by blocking a lane of traffic while they wait for a gap in opposing traffic to make their turn. The addition of the median lane should reduce the number of accidents and eliminate much of the congestion caused by left turning vehicles.

Your letter to us indicated that the median will not be constructed in the vicinity of the Fuller Road and the Thruway. However, the latest plans submitted to us by the NYSDOT included a median in this section of roadway. An additional right turn lane onto the connector to the Northway (I-87) was proposed at one time, but plans were dropped due to potential conflicts with vehicles turning left from Schoolhouse Road. It is also our understanding that a pedestrian actuated traffic signal is proposed at McKown Road and that the NYSDOT is still studying the feasibility of having the signals at Fuller Road be pedestrian actuated.

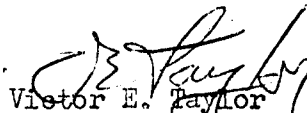
Under the existing procedures of the Federal-Aid Highway Program, the State has primary responsibility for planning and developing a project. We are responsible for review and approval at key stages during its development for compliance with Federal regulations. As the State is complying with our Federal-Aid requirements, we have recently granted Design Approval. Our Design Approval authorizes the State to finalize development of the plans and prepare

specifications for a contract on this project.

We can appreciate the apprehension of your association for the proposed improvements, but continued development has increased the traffic volumes to the point where the NYSDOT has to consider some improvements to Route 20. Although the improvement under consideration will be minimal, we believe that these improvements have been well planned and will be an asset to, not only the through traffic, but to local residents in that it will be more convenient for them to get out on to Western Avenue.

Thank you for your interest in highway matters and if we can be of any service, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,



Victor E. Taylor
Division Administrator